

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7414

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, SHUM, PINS, KS
SUBJ: NATIONAL TEXTILE WORKERS UNION ELECTS LEADERSHIP

REF: SEOUL 6466

1. IN CONVENTION FROM JULY 30 TO AUGUST 2, NATIONAL TEXTILE WORKERS UNION (NTWU) RE-ELECTED KIM YONG-TAE TO ANOTHER TERM AS PRESIDENT. KIM DEFEATED FRMER NTWU EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT YI YU-POK BY 80 TO 71 VOTE. FOUR DELEGATES WERE NOT PERMITTED TO VOTE, TWO FROM WONPUNG BRANCH UNION, ONE FROM Y H TRADING COMPANY UNION, AND ONE FROM PANDO BRANCH UNION. THESE THREE BRANCH UNIONS ARE RELATED TO URBAN INDUSTRIAL MISSION. GROUNDS FOR THEIR EXCLUSION APPEAR VALID AND ARE CENTERED ON FACT THAT THESE ARE ONLY UNIONS IN NTWU WHICH HAVE NOT RATIFIED NEW NATIONAL UNION CHARTER ADOPTED IN CONVENTION LAST FEBRUARY.

2. SURPRISE IN ELECTION WAS VOTE FOR KIM BY YI CHUN-SON AND PANG SUN-CHO, TWO PRESTIGIOUS LEADERS WHO HAD BEEN EXPELLED FROM NTWU BY KIM LAST YEAR. ACCORDING TO REPORTS, CONFIDENTIAL

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KIM CONTACTED THESE LEADERS, EXPLAINED THAT HIS RIVAL YI YU-POK HAD AS MUCH TO DO WITH THEIR EXPULSION FROM NTWU AS H HAD HAD, APOLOGIZED FOR HIS ACTION, AND OFFERED THEM REINSTATEMENT PRIOR TO CONVENTION. YI AHD PANG CONTROL ENOUGH VOTES TO HAVE BEEN DECISIVE GIVEN FINAL DIVISION OF DELEGATES. BOTH WERE ELECTED TO EXECUTIVE BOARD BY CONVENTION.

3. YI CHUN-SON AND PANG SUN-CHO ENJOY GOOD REPUTATIONS IN KOREAN LABOR CIRCLES. BOTH WERE PRIASED BY NAME BY UIM RELATED TONGIL GIRLS IN SECOND MANIFESTO DESCRIBING THEIR MISADVENTURES AT HANDS OF KIM YONG-TAE. OBVIOUSLY, THE UIM THINKS LESS HIGHLY OF THEM NOW THAT THEY THREW THEIR SUPPORT TO KIM, BUT, IN FACT, YI AND PANG ARE IN A BETTER POSITION TO INFLUENCE NATIONAL UNION POLICY NOW THAN THEY WERE LAST YEAR.

4. KNOWLEDGEABLE SOURCES IN LABOR CIRCLES, INCLUDING IN THE CHRISTIAN LABOR MOVEMENT (SEE REFTTEL), EXPRESSED SURPRISE THAT ROKG HAD NOT APPEARED TO INTERVENE IN SUCH A CLOSELY CONTESTED NATIONAL UNION ELECTION. HOWEVER, AFTER CONVENTION INTERESTED OBSERVERS EXPRESSED FEELING THAT GOVERNMENT MUST HAVE EXERTED INFLUENCE. SO FAR ONLY HARD EVIDENCE OF ROKG INTERVENTION COMES FROM RELIABLE SOURCES WHO STATE THAT ON EVE OF CONVENTION, KCIA CALLED IN BOTH CONTENDERS AND WARNED THEM TO FOLLOW ELECTION PROCEDURES AS OUTLINED IN NTWU CHARTER AND AVOID RESORT TO FORCE, VIOLENCE OR OTHER INTIMIDATION. SUCH A WARNING WOULD NOT HAVE FAVORED EITHER CANDIDATE. SOURCES NOTE THAT ROKG WAS UNHAPPY WITH BEDLAM WHICH BROKE OUT IN RECENT AUTO WORKERS CONVENTION WHERE CLASH OF RIVAL FACTIONS NECESSITATED INTERVENTION OF RIOT POLICE. EMBASSY IS CHECKING OTHER SOURCES IN SEARCH OF CONFIDENTIAL

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EVIDENCE THAT ROKG ASSISTED KIM BUT HAS NOT BEEN ABLE TO DOCUMENT ANY AS YET. IN ADDITION, DEAL WHICH PUT KIM OVER THE TOP, I.E., THE TRADE WITH YI AND PANG, SEEMS SUFFICIENT EXPLANATION OF OUTCOME, WITH ALL SIDES RECEIVING SOMETHING TANGIUBLE IN RETURN FOR ACTIONS TAKEN.

5. WITH KIM'S RE-ELECTION CHANCES FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UIM AND THE NTWU APPEAR REMOTE. PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, KIM'S RE-ELECTION MAY HAVE DESTABILIZING EFFECT ON FKTU. IT IS CLEAR THAT KIM BELIEVES THAT CHUNG TONG-HO OF FKTU TOOK STRONG PART IN EFFORT TO OUST HIM. KIM CAN NOW BE EXPECTED TO THROW WEIGHT OF NTWU, FKTU'S LARGEST NATIONAL UNION, TO ANY PROJECT WHICH WILL ERODE CHUNG'S POSITION.
GLEYSTEN

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